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JULY 1.

The President, Dr. RUSCHENBERGER, in the chair.

Sixteen members present.

Sex in Rhus cotinus.—Mr. THOMAS MEEHAN said *Rhus cotinus*, the common mist tree, was described as having perfect flowers. In a large quantity of seedlings growing on his grounds he found they were diœcious. There was not much novelty in this, as it was now generally conceded that most if not all plants called by old botanists polygamous, were practically *diœcious*, for what appeared to be perfect flowers had either the male or female flowers entirely inoperative. But in this case the distinction had a practical value to ornamental planters, for he had found that except in very rare instances only the female plants produced the hairy pedicles known as mist. Occasionally a male panicle of extra viability would produce a few short hairs. In general the panicle of male flowers died away as soon as the flowers faded. This fact also illustrated his view of the relative viability of the sexes. One might say of this, as has been said of other illustrations, that of course things die when their work is done. The male having nothing more to do does not need so much vitality as the female, which has to live on, as it has much more work to do. But this reasoning he thought favors his own views, and seems so unanswerable, that it ought, years ago, to have suggested to some mind the true law of vitality in its relation to sex as it had done to his own. It was enough for him that his facts were self-evident, that there was not as much force spent on the production of male as of female flowers.

In the production of seed in *Rhus cotinus*, he also noted that often two carpels were fully developed, and in some few cases three, thus forming a three-celled capsule.

JULY 8.

The President, Dr. RUSCHENBERGER, in the chair.

Seventeen members present.

Mr. Gentry made the following remarks:—

In some genera of Composite plants with ligulate ray and tubular disk florets, the discoid type has been occasionally observed in abnormal developments. A case of the kind came under my notice recently, while examining a plant of *Rudbeckia hirta*, in which the ray florets were all tubular. The structure of

each corolla was found to be identical with those of the disk, differing immaterially in size and color. Fully one-half of these irregular forms were perfect and fertile, whilst the opposite condition of affairs prevails in the normal flower.

On the same day in which the preceding observations were made, I noticed other plants of the same species, in which the disk florets had grown to twice the usual magnitude, and had doffed their natural shade of brown for the beautiful golden hue so eminently characteristic of the outer circle of florets. Here the essential organs of reproduction had, in a measure, aborted. Upon the principle that excess of growth force has transformed the sterile ray into fertile florets, and the same deficiency has been instrumental in reducing the fertile disk florets alluded to, to a partial state of abortion—a principle so ably maintained in the writings of Mr. Thomas Meehan—the foregoing facts receive a clear and comprehensive solution.

Subsequently I was so fortunate as to find three specimens of fully developed flowers growing upon the same plant, in each of which there was a double series of ray florets having the regular number of florets in each series. These were without exception ligulate and neutral. These secondary series, I think, are the result of the want of vigor necessary to develop fertile florets.

JULY 15.

The President, Dr. RUSCHENBERGER, in the chair.

Twelve members present.

JULY 22.

The President, Dr. RUSCHENBERGER, in the chair.

Eight members present.

The following paper was presented for publication:—

“Descriptions of New Species of Shells from the West Coast of Florida.” By R. E. C. STEARNS.

The death of John Warner was announced.

JULY 27.

The President, Dr. RUSCHENBERGER, in the chair.

Eight members present.

On report of the Committee the following papers were ordered to be published:—